

CLAIMS

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule including a sequence of nucleotides selected from the group consisting of (a) a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or 3; (b) a sequence which hybridises to SEQ ID NO:2 or 3 under
5 moderately stringent or high stringency conditions; (c) a complement of (a) or (b); and (d) a fragment or variant of (a), (b) or (c);

wherein said molecule is capable of modifying pollen-specific expression.

2. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 wherein said molecule is capable of modifying pollen-specific expression of an operably-linked
10 second nucleic acid molecule.

3. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2 from a ryegrass (*Lolium*) or Fescue (*Festuca*) species.

4. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 3 from perennial ryegrass (*L.perenne*).

- 15 5. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2 wherein said second nucleic acid molecule is capable of down-regulating expression of a pollen allergen.

6. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 5 wherein said pollen allergen is *Lol p 1* and/or *Lol p 2*.

- 20 7. A vector including a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1.

8. A vector according to claim 7, further including a second nucleic acid molecule and a terminator, said nucleic acid molecule, second nucleic acid molecule and terminator being operably linked so as to result in expression of said second nucleic acid molecule.

- 25 9. A vector according to claim 8 wherein said second nucleic acid molecule is capable of modifying expression of a pollen allergen.

10. A vector according to claim 9 wherein said pollen allergen is *Lol p 1* and/or *Lol p 2*.

11. A chimeric gene including a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 operably linked to a second nucleic acid molecule.

5 12. A chimeric gene according to claim 11 wherein said second nucleic acid molecule is capable of modifying expression of a pollen allergen.

13. A chimeric gene according to claim 12 wherein said pollen allergen is *Lol p 1* and/or *Lol p 2*.

10 14. A plant cell, plant, plant seed or other plant part including a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, a vector according to claim 7 or a chimeric gene according to claim 11.

15. A low allergy plant including a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, a vector according to claim 7 or a chimeric gene according to claim 11.

15 16. A low allergy plant according to claim 15 which is a ryegrass or fescue.

17. A method of modifying gene expression in pollen said method including introducing into a plant cell an effective amount of a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, a vector according to claim 7 or a chimeric gene according to claim 11.

20 18. A method of producing a plant with reduced male fertility compared with a wild-type plant, said method including introducing into the plant a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 in combination with a further nucleic acid molecule capable of modulating male fertility.

25 19. A method according to claim 18 wherein said further nucleic acid molecule is capable of modifying pollen development.

20. A method according to claim 19 wherein said further nucleic acid molecule encodes bacterial ribonuclease barnase.
21. A plant produced by a method according to claim 18.
22. A plant according to claim 21 wherein said plant is a male sterile
5 plant.
23. A preparation for transforming a plant including a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1.